

# **MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS**

## MARRIAGE RATE

There were 1,947 marriages in Lancaster County in 2003. This translates into a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 population. The Nebraska rate was 7 per 1,000 in 2003. The marriage rates for Nebraska and Lancaster County have remained relatively stable for the past five years (Figure 19).

The most common month of marriage was August followed by June (Table 37).

## AGE AND RACE

In 2003, 1,786 (91.7%) grooms and 1,815 (93.2%) brides were White. The remaining 156 grooms and 124 brides were of other races. Five grooms and 8 brides did not report any race (Table 38).

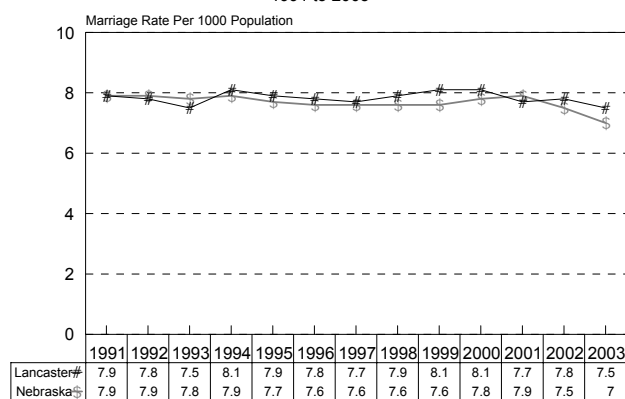
**Table 36.**

Marriages by Month  
Lancaster County, 2003

Month	Frequency	Percent
January	89	4.6
February	110	5.6
March	109	5.6
April	118	6.1
May	227	11.7
June	232	11.9
July	200	10.3
August	249	12.8
September	187	9.6
October	170	8.7
November	129	6.6
December	127	6.5
Total	1947	100

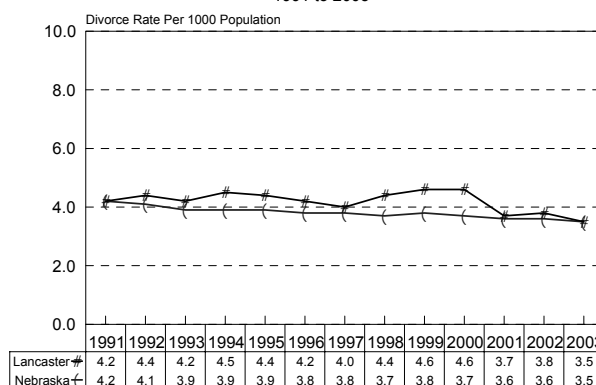
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**Figure 19: Marriage Rate**  
Lancaster County and Nebraska  
1991 to 2003



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**Figure 20: Divorce Rate**  
Lancaster County and Nebraska  
1991 to 2003



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In 2003, the mean age for Lancaster County grooms was 31.7 years. The mean age for brides was 29.6 years.

The mean marriage age of White males and females was 31.6 and 29.6 years, respectively. The mean age for Black males and females was 35 and 30 years, respectively. The mean marriage age for American Indian males and females was 34 and 31, respectively. The mean marriage age was 33 for Asian males and 32 for Asian females.

## **EDUCATION**

Grooms and brides had a mean education of 14 years or two years of education beyond high school. The most frequent educational level was equivalent to a high school education (12 years) for both males and females.

## **DIVORCE RATE**

The 2003 marriage/divorce ratio in Lancaster County was 2.1/1 (Table 39), indicating that there were 2.1 times as many marriages as divorces.

There were 917 divorces in Lancaster County in 2003. This represents a rate of 3.4 per 1,000 population (Figure 20). The 2003 divorce rate for Nebraska was 3.5 per 1,000 population.

Among males divorced in 2003, 67.2 percent were divorced for the first time,

while among females, 64.3 percent divorced for the first time.

## **AGE AND RACE**

The mean age of divorced males was 39.5 years and the average age of divorced females was 37.4 years. The median age of divorced males was 39.0 years, while the median age of divorced females was 37.0 years. The average age of first time divorced males and females was 39.5 and 37.4 years, respectively.

Of the divorces where race was reported in 2003, 86.4 percent of the divorces involved White males and 88.7 percent of divorces involved White females. The marriage to divorce ratios ranged from 2 for Black males to 3.7 for Asian males (Table 38).

## **SETTLEMENT**

In 2003, divorce settlements ranged from no settlement to alimony, child support, property, or a combination of settlements. Table 41 lists the types and frequencies of divorce settlements. Divorces most commonly involved property settlement only (43.5%) or property settlement and child support (28.2%).

## CHILDREN OF DIVORCE & CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Of the 917 divorces in 2003, 446 (48.6%) occurred in households with children under the age of 18.

Of the 446 divorce settlements involving children during 2003, the divorced woman was awarded exclusive custody of all or some children in 316 (34.5%) of the cases. Divorced men were awarded exclusive custody of some or all children in 56 (6.1%) of these divorces.

In 65 (7.1%) divorces, joint custody was awarded for some or all of the children. In 3 (0.3%) divorces, some or all children were awarded to a party other than the divorced man or woman.

**Table 37.**  
Marriage by Sex and Race  
Lancaster County, 2003

Race	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
White	1786	91.7	1815	93.2
Black	70	3.6	37	1.9
Am.Indian	8	0.4	10	0.5
Asian	77	4	77	4
Other/Unknown	6	0.4	8	0.4
Total	1947	100	1947	100

*Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department*

**Table 38.**  
Marriages/ Divorce Ratio  
Race of Male  
Lancaster County, 2003

Race	Number of Marriages/ Divorce	Ratio
White	1786/792	2.2/1
Black	70/43	1.6/1
Am Indian	8/10	0.8/1/1
Asian	77/25	3.08/1
Unknow/Other	6/47	0.12/1
Total	1947/917	2.1/1

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**Table 39.**  
Number or Times Married at the Time of Divorce.  
Males and Females  
Lancaster County, 2003

Times Married	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
1	616	67.2	590	64.3
2	186	20.6	186	20.3
3	40	4.4	67	7.3
4	13	1.4	15	1.6
5	S	S	S	S
6 or more	S	S	S	S
Not Classifiable	53	5.8	54	5.9
Total	917	100	917	100

*Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department*

*S=Suppressed for Confidentiality*

**Table 40.**  
Types of Divorce Settlements  
Lancaster County, 2003

Settlement	Frequency	Percentage
None	114	12.4
Alimony	4	0.4
Child Support	67	7.3
Property Settlement	399	43.5
Alimony and Child Support	1	0.1
Alimony and Property Settlement	36	3.9
Child Support and Property Settlement	259	28.2
Alimony, Child Support and Property Settlement	37	4
All Other	0	0
Unknown and Not Classifiable	0	0
Total	917	100

*Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department*